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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arctic)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Port of Arkhangelsk 2. Naval Formation off Svyatoy Nos	DATE DISTR.	16 October 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

2. Many fairly-high towers were observed on Sosnovets Island (N 66-29, E 40-41). They appeared to be light towers, but there did not appear to be any light in the towers. Gray-painted motor vessels flying the naval flag were observed in the inlets along the Kola coast. They appeared to be large fishing vessels; they have powerful motors and a speed of nine-and-a-half to 10 knots. One of these vessels had guns on its foredeck; the others had a stand on which a gun could be mounted. These vessels came out to inspect merchant ships as they passed. Informant observed several similar vessels go up to Arkhangelsk.

3. [redacted] two small naval vessels firing at targets; the ships were located about 10 nautical miles north of Dvina lightship. They were low narrow vessels, about 150 to 160 feet long. They had square sterns and one stack each. The guns were fired from the stern. The firing was directed to the north along the coast against a float which was located about 3/4 of a nautical mile away. There was an interval of three or four minutes between each shot, and [redacted] seven or eight shots fired. [redacted] water sprays in the vicinity of the float, but the float did not move.

4. [redacted] three miles off Svyatoy [redacted] 13 surface vessels and three submarines. The submarines, which were of a large type, were lying almost still under Svyatoy Nos. The surface vessels traveled in formation at a speed of about 15 or 16 knots in a northwest to southeast direction. There were two large vessels in the formation. [redacted] described as light cruisers. [redacted]

[redacted] eleven other vessels described as destroyers of two types. The larger type destroyer

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had two stacks and was at least 310 feet long. The smaller type destroyers had only one stack. The formation was headed by a small destroyer. At some distance behind this destroyer was the main body of the formation, which consisted of two small destroyers followed by a cruiser with a large destroyer on both sides. Behind these, there were several destroyers followed by the second cruiser with a large destroyer on each side. Several destroyers brought up the rear of the formation. The distance between the ships in formation was about one-half a nautical mile or less. The formation was four or five miles outboard of informant's ship at its closest point. One of the small destroyers left the formation, and it cut across the course of informant's ship, heading in toward the submarines which lay below the shore.

5. [redacted] many large tugs towing lighters loaded with plank material; they were heading out into the White Sea. Several tugs with lighters were observed as far out as Svyatoy Nos (N 68-10, E 39-48); beyond that point only one or two tugs with lighters were observed. 50X1-HUM
6. [redacted] Sawmill No. 2 on Brevennik Island (N 64-39, E 40-32) [redacted] consisted of five single mills which cut pit props. [redacted] two of the mills were new. Three of the mills could be seen from the pier, and the other two informant observed across the island [redacted] The mills were long structures; the timber was brought by conveyor belt to one end of the mill, and it came out the other end as pit props. These pit props are then taken by trucks to a storage area. In addition to pit props, planks and building material were piled up in the storage area. 50X1-HUM
7. The pier at the sawmill can accommodate two vessels. The depth at about one meter out from the pier was about 24 feet. The pier was always guarded by three men when there was a vessel tied up there, and by four men when two vessels were at the pier. [redacted] the workers who floated the timber into the area were under constant surveillance. The stevedores worked very quickly, and [redacted] were contract workers. 50X1-HUM
8. [redacted] The bridge between Solombala and Arkhangelsk [redacted] described as large floats lashed closely together and moored in the river with wire. The bridge had a plank surface and could accommodate heavy trucks; nine-inch planks were extended lengthwise to span the distance between the floats. The bridge could be opened to permit ships and timber to pass. 50X1-HUM

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